

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 00526 201524Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DOTE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /063 W

-----202340Z 116035 /61

R 201500Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, ELAB, PINS

SUBJECT: LABOR UNREST IN ZAIRE

REF: (A) 76 KINSHASA 10494

(B) 76 KINSHASA 10629

1. UNTZA SECRETARY GENERAL KIKONGI, DURING LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR AND US REP TO ILO DANIEL HOROWITZ, MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON LABOR SITUATION IN ZAIRE:

-- MOBUTU GRANTED 13TH-MONTH BONUSES LAST MONTH (REFTEL A) ONLY AFTER AIR ZAIRE WORKERS THREATENED TO BURN TWO AIRCRAFT AND OFFICE DES TRANSPORTS EN COMMUN DUE ZAIRE (OTCZ) DRIVERS WERE ABOUT TO BARRICADE PRINCIPAL KINSHASA STREETS WITH THEIR BUSES;
-- ZAIRIAN WORKERS DISMISSED MOBUTU'S RECENT BUDGET SPEECH BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (REFTEL B) AS EMPTY RHETORIC, AND WILL REMAIN DEAF TO APPEALS FOR AUSTERITY AS LONG AS THE GOZ LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO CONSPICUOUSLY CONSUME PUBLIC FUNDS;
-- LABOR STRIFE IS LIKELY TO INCREASE DANGEROUSLY BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL AS SHORTAGES AND RISING PRICES INTERACT TO SQUEEZE ALREADY HARD-PRESSED WORKERS.

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2. COMMENT: KIKONGI'S CANDOR CONTRASTED WITH HIS MARKED DISCRETION DURING HIS ONLY PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR A YEAR AGO, BUT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE MORE FREQUENT CRITICISM OF THE REGIME EXPRESSED TO US BY A VARIETY OF GOZ OFFICIALS IN RECENT MONTHS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT, AS OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE GOZ LEADERSHIP, KIKONGI IS FEELING

INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE AS WORKER DISCONTENT PERSISTS. HIS
FORECAST OF INCREASED LABOR UNREST IN THE MONTHS AHEAD GOES FURTHER
THAN OUR OWN CURRENT ANALYSIS, BUT NEVERTHELESS SHOULD BE
TAKEN SERIOUSLY.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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